statement of U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Government took up the matter with the US Government and sought a clarification regarding the comments made by the US Ambassador to Pakistan on Kashmir.

(b) & (c) Conveying its response to our Embassy at Washington, the US Government reiterated its position on Kashmir and also issued a press advisory in the matter. Subsequently in a written statement to the US Congress, the US Government stated that it regarded the plebiscite mechanism outlined in the UN Resolutions as overtaken by the Shimla Agreement.

Malicious propaganda regarding Kashmir

1401. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a malicious propaganda regarding Kashmir is going on in U.S.A. these days;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to contradict the above propaganda; and

(c) what has been the effect of the malicious propaganda in U.S.A. on the mind of American citizens?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken several steps to project the factual position on Kashmir in order to counter the hostile propaganda. These steps include regular and intensive consultation with US Government officials, Senators and Congressmen, the media, the academic community, the Indian community and other interested parties.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to counter this propaganda have resulted in greater appreciation of the situation in Kashmir among Americans belonging to the groups mentioned in (b) above.

Indians residing in the U.S.A.

1402. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians residing in the U.S.A.; and

(b) what are their professional and educational background?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Estimated number of Indian citizens residing in the U.S.A. as on 1st October, 1989 is 7.5 lakhs.

(b) They are from several walks of life, including engineers, doctors, businessmen, white collar job holders etc. A detailed breakup according to professional and educational background is not available.

Deportation of Srilankan Tamil Militants from India

1403. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to deport all Srilankan Tamil militants from India; and

(b) what is the total number of such Srilankan Tamil militants residing in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As reported by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, there are 1014 militants and suspected militants lodged in Special Camps in the State.

News item captioned 'Glasnost throws new light on Shastri's Delhi

1404. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Glasnost throws new light on Shastri's death" which appeared in the *Indian Express*, dated March 22, 1991; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have taken note of the fact that the report has been categorically denied by the Soviet Embassy in New Delhi through a press release dated 4th April, 1991.

महिलाओं के प्रति होने वाले अत्याचार

1405. श्रीमती रत्न कुमारी : क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में महिलाओं के प्रति होने वाले अपराधों (घटनाओं) में वृद्धि हो रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके मुख्य कारण क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ऐसे अपराधों को रोकने के लिये कुछ नये कानून बनाने पर विचार कर रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम एम० जैकब) : (क) और (ख) अपराधों को दर्ज करना, जांच पड़ताल करना, पता लगाना और रोकने की जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकारों की है। तथापि वर्ष 1988, 1989 और 1990 के दौरान महिलाओं के प्रति हुए अपराधों के दर्ज मामलों की संख्या का एक विवरण संलग्न है।

(ग) और (घ) दहेज निषेध अधिनियम, 1961 के उपबंधों को अधिक सख्त और प्रभावकारी बनाने के लिये इसे संशोधित किया गया है। केवल दहेज मृत्यु मामलों से ही नहीं अपितु विवाहित महिलाओं के प्रति क्रूरता के मामलों से प्रभावकारी रूप से निपटने के लिये, भारतीय दंड संहिता, दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता 1973 और भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम 1972 को अपराधिक कानून (द्वितीय संशोधन) अधिनियम 1983 द्वारा संशोधित किया गया है।

महिला और बाल विकास विभाग ने भी महिलाओं और राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग की गठन से संबंधित वर्तमान विधायनों की खामियों को दूर करने के लिये उपाय किये हैं।